

**Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council Meeting Summary**  
**August 17-18, 2006**  
**Jorgenson's Inn and Suites, Helena**

Members Present:

Kathleen Nelson, Don Harr, Boyd Roth, Pam Koepplin, Gerald Pease, Mignon Waterman, Gary Popiel, Joyce DeCunzo, Frank Podobnik, Drew Schoening, Suzanne Hopkins, Jo Shipman, Jim FitzGerald, Joan Daly, Bob Jahner, Jacob Wagner, Tom Peluso, Leslie Edgcomb, Alice Hougerty, Tammera Nauts, Karen Ward

Members Excused:

Dan Weinberg, Mary Dalton, Barb Hogg

AMDD and HRD Staff Present:

Carol Davidson, Lou Thompson, Deb Matteucci, Dan Ladd, Cheryl Nystrom, Jane Wilson, Mary Jane Fox, Dennis Cox, Tessa Ash, Rita Pickering, Jaime Stolte, Karin Billings, Bobbi Renner, Marcia Armstrong

The meeting summary for May was approved.

Housing presentation: Leslie Edgcomb presented Housing 101; Maureen Martin presented Section 8 and Shelter plus care vouchers; Karen Ward addressed public housing; and Michael O'Neil presented the Home Choice Coalition activities.

Prevalence Study: Bobbi Renner presented the preliminary results of the prevalence and unmet needs for persons with SDMI and youth with SED WICHE study. (Power point attached) The next step will be to convene a data committee to analyze the results.

The Criminal Justice recommendations letter was approved.

Mignon Waterman has scheduled a meeting with Joan Miles to discuss the criminal justice recommendations. The letter will be copied to Anna Whiting Sorrell and the Legislative Finance Committee.

Crisis Response recommendation letter: The letter was reviewed. Send edits and comments to Joan Daly by September 1, 2006. The draft letter should be sent out October 1, 2006.

Service Area Authority (SAA) letter: Tom Peluso requested the Council endorse the letter. In the future, the purpose of the letter needs to be in the opening paragraph. The Council needs to determine the appropriate protocol for endorsing letters. The Council agreed to send a letter of support. Those abstaining from voting were: Leslie Edgcomb, Joyce DeCunzo, Jo Shipman, and Don Harr.

Medicaid Pharmaceutical Formularies Overview (Roger Citron): Montana is part of the National Medicaid Network which includes ten other states. New York has recently

joined the network. This will increase the negotiating power of the Network with the drug companies. The network has 3.5 million persons insured and spends annually \$5 billion on drugs. Montana received a \$3.2 million in supplemental rebate.

Annual report to the Governor: Mignon presented the recommendations for criminal justice and crisis services to Anna Whiting Sorrell. The crisis system regardless of funds should include:

- ✓ Trained first responders such as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)
- ✓ Proper medical standards for persons presenting in the emergency rooms with psychiatric issues
- ✓ 72 hour eligibility
- ✓ Provision of necessary services
- ✓ Secured units available
- ✓ Appropriate and due process
- ✓ Community based stabilization

The criminal justice recommendations were:

- ✓ Designated pre-release beds for persons with mental illness
- ✓ Forensic unit such as the Dr. X building, which addresses the needs of inmates with mental illness
- ✓ Law enforcement standards for handling persons in psychiatric crisis
- ✓ Mental health training at all levels
- ✓ Include co-occurring training
- ✓ Expand Board of Visitors review privileges to include corrections

According to Anna Whiting-Sorrell, the Governor is serious about understanding the mental health system by “connecting the dots”. Recently the Governor’s office, Departments of Corrections and Public Health and Human Services, Board of Crime Control, Board of Visitors, Mental Health Ombudsman, Suzanne Hopkins and Senator Dan Weinberg met to discuss the vision and action steps for mental health. Need to build a system that is in the best interest of the Montana citizens and is done in incremental steps that are sustainable.

Block Grant Review (Bob Jahner): The adult and youth sections of the block grant were reviewed and approved.

By-Laws and Development Committee (Don Harr): The By-Laws are amended in Article IV, Section 3 the election of officers delete summer and insert spring. The motion was carried.

The next sections will be voted on at the November meeting.

- ✓ Article III, Section 1.b – membership after tribes insert MACo, one representative from each Service Area Authority and one representative from the Kids Management Authorities (KMA).
- ✓ Article V, Section 1b add except for state representative, SAA and KMA representatives and MACo.

**Vacancies:**

- ✓ A consumer is needed. A person from Glasgow is interested in appointment to the Council. Carol Davidson ~~and Joyce DeCunzo~~ will take care of this appointment.
- ✓ A replacement for Dr. Drew Schoening representing Department of Corrections, is needed. Joyce De Cunzo will contact Director Mike Ferriter to request a replacement.
- ✓ Two other vacancies include the KMA representatives. Mignon Waterman will work with the Department to facilitate the selection process.

Mental Health Block Grant Annual Meeting (Suzanne Hopkins): Suzanne attended the annual block grant meeting in June 2006. The goal is recovery and resilience in transforming the mental health system so persons can reach their full potential.

Announcements:

- ✓ Housing conference with other interesting topics. To find out more look at [housing.mt.gov](http://housing.mt.gov).
- ✓ The Center for Mental Health will be developing a peer support specialist program. The kick off is September 11, 2006 in Great Falls.

Next Meetings:

**November 16-17, 2006**

**February 8-9, 2007**

**May 10-11, 2007**

**August 2-3, 2007**

**November 1-2, 2007**